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What is claimed is:

1. A method of preventing and reducing pain in an animal comprising administering methotrexate to said animal.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the pain comprises lower back pain with radiculopathy.
3. A nonhuman animal model for radicular pain wherein the L5 spinal root of the animal is loosely ligated with a suture material.
4. The nonhuman animal model of claim 3 wherein the suture material comprises chromic gut.
5. A method for producing the nonhuman animal model of claim 3 comprising:
- a) anesthetizing a nonhuman animal with inhalation anesthesia;
  - b) making an incision in the skin and muscle layers at a L5 level of a spinal cord of said animal;
  - c) exposing a spinal root, a dorsal root ganglia, and adjacent dura mater on a left side at the L5 level of the spinal cord of said animal;
  - d) securing pieces of suture material around the spinal root adjacent to the L5 position; and
  - f) suturing the muscle layers and the skin incisions of said animal closed.
6. The method of claim 5 wherein the suture material comprises chromic gut.
7. A method of evaluating efficacy of an agent for use in chronic pain management comprising administering a test agent to the nonhuman animal model of claim 3 and determining

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the ability of the test agent to inhibit or prevent mechanical allodynia or gait disturbance in the animal.

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